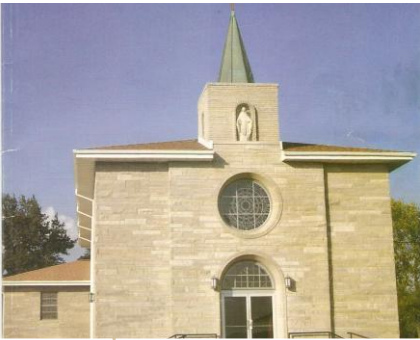


St. Mary’s Catholic Church

Annunciation Church of B.V.M., Shumway, IL
+Bishop Thomas John Paprocki
Fr. Adam Prichard, Pastor
aprichard@dio.org
“Office” Phone: 1-844-536-6514 (leave a message)
Website: www.stmaryshumway.org
Email: stmarysshumway@gmail.com
Address: PO Box 96, Shumway, IL 62461



To reserve the church basement please call 1-844-536-6514.

Cemetery Committee

John Adams 618-322-2874
Matt Childerson 217-254-5896
Daphne Hoffman 217-821-7268

Funeral Meal Coordinators

Leslie Kemme 217-821-3399
Dot Thomas 217-259-8560

Shumway Mass Times:

Tuesday – 5:15 pm
Adoration 4-5 pm
Wednesday 8:00 am
Saturday 4:00 pm
Reconciliation-3pm
Sunday 8:00 am

Green Creek Mass Times:

Thursday – 5:15 pm
Adoration 4-5 pm
Friday – 8 am
Saturday – 6 pm
Sunday – 10:00 am

No Adoration/Mass when it falls on a Holy Day

Victim Assistance Contact Information-To Report Child Sexual Abuse by Church Personnel or to inquire about Safe Environment Programs in the Diocese of Springfield call 217-321-1155 or Children & Family Services Child Abuse Hotline 1-800-25-ABUSE

SAT 4pm	Aug. 16 Church picnic	Aug. 23	Aug. 30	Sept. 6	Sept. 13
Servers	Aubrey Brown Abby Brown Anna Brown	Trey Brown Tryston Brown Madalyne Brown	Isaac Wells Abby Brown Anna Brown	Aubrey Brown Tryston Brown Madalyne Brown	Trey Brown Isaac Wells Abby Brown
Lector	Donna Davis	Christy Brown	Alaina Miller	Mike Holland	Doug Brown
Usher	Mike Holland Jason Wells	Don Brown Doug Brown	Jason Wells Don Brown	Don Brown Doug Brown	Mike Holland Jason Wells
Ech Min	Donna Davis Mike Holland Rosemary Holland	Katrina Davis Kathy Brown Don Brown	Katrina Davis Kathy Brown Don Brown	Donna Davis Mike Holland Rosemary Holland	Katrina Davis Kathy Brown Don Brown
Gift Bearers	Doug Brown Family	Jason Wells Family	Kathy Brown	Jesse Davis Family	Don Brown Family
SUN 8am	Aug. 17	Aug. 24	Aug. 31	Sept. 7	Sept. 14 Families in Faith
Servers	Garrett Hoene Braxton Hoene Olivia Vonderheide	Rory Miller Wylie Miller Daisy Miller	Wade Conder Zoey Conder Jacob Vonderheide	Garrett Hoene Braxton Hoene Olivia Vonderheide	Rory Miller Wylie Miller Daisy Miller
Lector	Lisa Thompson	Terry Hoene	Lisa Thompson	Terry Hoene	Lisa Thompson
Ushers	Jason Vonderheide Charley Vonderheide	Larry Lieb Jim Vonderheide	Roy Waldhoff Joe Conder	Gene Doedtman Tom Doedtman	Josh Miller Justin Conder
Ech Min	Roy Waldhoff Barb Vonderheide Lisa Waldhoff	Leslie Kemme Timber Miller Lisa Thompson	Linda Doedtman Barb Vonderheide Lisa Waldhoff	Roy Waldhoff Leslie Kemme Timber Miller	Linda Doedtman Barb Vonderheide Lisa Waldhoff
Gift Bearers	Justin Conder Family	Greg Michelle Spannagel	Deb Stremming	Wanda Ohnesorge	Rodney Hoene Family
Greeters	Charley Rhonda Vonderheide	Barb Vonderheide	Roy Lisa Waldhoff	Jason Pruemmer Family	Larry Lieb
Money Counters	Bales, Richards Sheehan, Hackman	Stremming Conder	Doedtman Shadwell	Waldhoff Hoene	Kemme Adams
WED. 8am Lectors	Aug. 20	Aug. 27	Sept. 3	Sept. 10	Sept. 24
	Linda Doedtman	Irene Koester	Alice Richards	Mike Holland	Linda Doedtman

PRAYER LIST: Please remember them in your prayers!



Call: 1-844-536-6514 to add or remove someone. Thank You.

Carl Gross
Trevor Roy
Tony Bierman
Tori Schairbaum
Tom Laue
Jerry Worman
Mardell Sheehan
Elsie McKay
Kathy Miller
David Brown
Kathy Wakefield
Larry Nation

Norma Bloemer
Beth Hewing
Jim Gordon
Don Kemme
Don Clark
Steve Moore
Sally Wakefield
Pat Kuhns
Bill Hamilton
Christie Dust
Helen Kollinger
Bill Nuxoll
Cinda Held



August Committee: Carol Levitt, Lisa Waldhoff, Karen Neu
Sandra Laue, Janice Monroe

Weekly Offering.....8-17-25

Adult.....\$1390.00
Loose.....470.00
Assumption.....185.00
Total.....\$2045.00
Parish Hall update \$130,344.97

August parish council meeting minutes can be found on the bulletin boards in church.

St. Mary’s Catholic Church, Shumway

MISSION

(who we are and what we do, our purpose)
Be a growing community of disciples, centered on the Eucharist, that imitates Jesus by proclaiming the Gospel and serving our neighbors with love.

VISION

(where we are going, our focus)
Building the Body of Christ through families of faith with vibrant spiritual formation, joyful community fellowship and service, and a welcoming presence to all.

SonRise Fridays are BACK! – All Men Invited – September 5
SonRise Friday Men’s Breakfast returns to St. Anthony’s Parish Center Sept. 5 for men of all area parishes. Together we will dive into: **“Becoming a Man After God’s Own Heart”**, a video series produced by Paradises Dei’s That Man Is You!
Experience a renewed sense of purpose as you discover the Scriptural Vision of man, including the four leadership roles entrusted to him, and the five personal leadership traits to get there. Join us for food, fellowship and faith 6:15 AM, Friday, Sept. 5, St. Anthony Parish Center, Effingham.
All men are welcome. Learn more at thatmanisyou.com, or Dan Woods, 217-821-1495. danwoodsface@gmail.com

Do you have questions about Medicare?
Join us for an informational class.

Preregistration Required | Free to the Public | Only 20 Seats Available!

**Effingham Catholic Charities
Conference Room**
1502 E Fayette Ave, Teutopolis
Call 217-857-1458 to Register

Dates Available

September 2 - 10 AM	September 16 - 10 AM
September 4 - 10 AM	September 18 - 10 AM
September 9 - 1 PM	September 23 - 1 PM

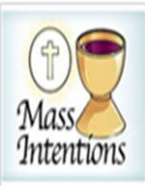


Bible Study @ St. Mary’s, Shumway
This year we will take “A Journey Through Church History.” We will do 10 sessions in the fall and 10 sessions in the spring. We will meet every Wednesday starting on the Sept. 10th at 6:30pm in the basement. We will not meet on the first Wednesdays due to the parish council meetings.
To order a workbook go to <https://ascensionpress.com/collections/epic-a-journey-through-church-history#study-materials> If you have any questions contact Donna Davis 217-690-2640. See the flyer on the bulletin board for more info.

The Effingham Knights of Columbus Council #665 will be hosting it’s yearly Labor Mass on September 1st, 2025, at St. Anthony Church at 9am.

Bible Study at St. Anthony’s Church will resume on Thursday, Sept 4-- the Bible Timeline. Sessions will be offered at 9:15am or 6:30pm in the St. Anthony parish center. Please call the parish office to register by August 25 so books can be ordered 217-347-7129

Youth Group Kick Off Cookout on Sept. 7 from 5-7pm. See the fliers on the bulletin board for details.



† This symbol denotes-deceased.

Saturday, Aug. 23 – †Dorothy Ruholl by Tim & Patty Kessler
Sunday, Aug. 24- †Bob Roepke by Family
Tuesday, Aug. 26 – †Lucy &Henry Dust by Family
Wednesday, Aug. 27- †Larry Ferguson by Kathy Ferguson
Saturday, Aug. 30- †Leonard Montello by Jane Montello
Sunday, Aug. 31 – †Edward Kirchhofer by Jim Mary Miller
Tuesday, Sept. 2 - †Marita Kemme by Deb Josh Ochs
Wednesday, Sept. 3 - †Joseph H Willenborg by his daughters

Please call or email (info on front page) to schedule an intention or put an envelope in the collection basket with the information. Envelopes can be found in the mailbox in the cry room. There is a calendar of available dates located in the cry room.

Happy Birthday



Alice Richards 8-28
Aaron Wells 8-30
Doug Holland 8-31

Happy Anniversary

DAVID & KARA BROWN 8-25-2012
13 years

Men’s Leadership Summit taking place in Edwardsville Oct. 18 – Do you feel like just another guy in a pew? You’re not alone. The Diocese of Springfield in Illinois has invited John Edwards from Just a Guy in the Pew to host a Men’s Leadership Summit on Saturday, October 18, 2025 at St. Boniface Church in Edwardsville (110 N Buchanan St.) to bring single and married men together to support one another, get inspired by their faith, gain and enhance leadership skills, and discuss best practices for men’s ministry. John is a dynamic, inspirational spiritual leader who has a powerful witness story of hard drug use to finding Christ in a radical way.

Register at dio.org/events. Cost: \$30. Includes materials/food and drink. Deadline to register is Oct. 1. Contact: Gracie Ortiz, Director of Marriage and Family Life at gortiz@dio.org or 217-321-1124 for questions.

Office for the Permanent Diaconate - Interested in becoming a permanent deacon? Join us after 10am Mass Sunday, September 7th at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. Following Mass there will be an informational meeting in the atrium. Wives are welcome and encouraged to attend with their husbands. Please visit <https://dio.org/diaconate/> for more information about the diaconate.

Families in Faith (PSR) will begin on Sunday, Sept. 14 after mass. There is a sign up sheet in the cry room for any new students grades Pre-K through high school.
Also remember that there is a class also for all adults in the parish. You don’t have a child in a class to participate!!! If you have any questions, contact Leslie Kemme 217-821-3399

On Tuesday, Sept. 9 @ 7pm there will be training for Lectors and Extra Ordinary Ministers. This for anyone who current is or those who would like to be.
AND on Saturday, Sept. 27 @ 9am there will be server training. This for current servers and anyone one else who would like to serve (need to have made your first communion).

Don Kemme is turning 90 on Sept. 1. He would love to receive cards. Don currently resides at Lakeland Rehabilitation and Health Care Center. Please send cards to his son, Paul.
Don Kemme
c/o Paul Kemme
13247 N. 1000th Rd
Effingham, IL 62401

Calling all men juniors in high school and above! Join Bishop Paprocki and Priests of the Diocese for an Andrew Dinner at 5:00pm on Sunday, September 21 at Little Flower in Springfield. The Andrew Dinner is a simple/low key gathering where we will pray, share a meal, and have conversations about Priesthood and how best to discern what vocation God is calling you to. If you would like to attend, sign up at this link: <https://forms.gle/exdi2Jyrpbo3zNrC7> or email Fr. Zach Samples at zsamples@dio.org
We hope to see you there!

CCW Meeting – Tues. Sept. 2 @ 6:30pm
Council Meeting – Wed. Sept. 3 @6:30pm

Prayer Campaign for LIFE

Sept. 24 – Nov. 2

We will be joining people of faith across our nation to pray, fast, and serve to end abortion and to fight assisted suicide during the “Prayer Campaign for Life”, 40 days focused on building a pro-life culture. This will take place from Sept. 24 to Nov. 2. Please consider participating in all 3 parts of this pro-life campaign:

- Part 1: Commit to an hour of prayer on Tuesday, Sept. 30 and Tuesday, Oct. 7. Come to the church for an hour or pray at home if you can not get to church. 4-5pm each of those days is our normal hour for adoration with mass afterwards.
- Part 2: Commit to fast for an end to abortion (no sign-up required).
- Part 3: Choose an hour or more to volunteer at the Silk Purse Thrift Store in Effingham. Choose any hours between 9 am - 4 pm, Monday through Friday. Contact Valerie Kemme (217) 663-2738 to get on the schedule. Sign-up sheets will be coming soon!!!

Catholic Men’s Overnight Retreat, September 27-28, Villa Maria Retreat Center - “Sons of the Father, Men in Christ.” Visit dio.org/events for a more detailed schedule and to register. The cost is \$150 and includes overnight accommodations (single occupancy), meals, and retreat materials. Deadline--September 22. Contact events@dio.org with questions.

Knights of Columbus Initiation The 4th Degree of Assembly 0196 in Teutopolis, IL will hold an exemplification on Sunday, September 7. The 4th Degree Knights is a Catholic men's organization that fosters patriotism and responsible citizenship. Why not take the next step in your faith and religious development? Everyone who is a 3rd Degree Knights member and interested in becoming a sir knight is encouraged to contact the Faithful Navigator, Dan Dust at 217-690-3124 or call the Faithful Scribe, Leon Gobczynski at 217-343-2112.

All ladies are invited to the **Mattoon Deanery Council of Catholic Women meeting** on Thursday, August 28, 2025, at St. Columcille Church, 516 W. Jackson St., Sullivan, IL 61951. Holy Mass at 8:30 a.m., registration following Mass.

All women are invited to the **Springfield Diocesan Council of Catholic Women’s annual convention** on Wednesday, October 1, at St. Paul’s Church and Trinity Hall, 1411 Main St., Highland, IL. For more info see bulletin board. Forms to register are on the bulletin board. Forms are due by September 14

Family Life Center Fundraising Banquet Sept. 11 (Thursday), 7 pm, at the Keller Convention Center. - Reservations are required bit.ly/visiondinner2025 - Seating begins at 6:30 pm, the dinner and program are from 7 - 9:15 pm. - The featured speaker is David McCroskey.

The 35th annual Family Camp will be held September 20-21 at Lake Williamson Christian Center in Carlinville. This fun and relaxing weekend is for those with intellectual and/or physical disabilities, along with their family and friends. Registration forms are available at www.sheff.org or by contacting Elaine Vonderheide at 217-821-1995.

Upcoming DeColores Fall Weekends:
Men’s Weekend: October 16-19; Lay Leader: Tim Hodge. Call or Text him at 217-821-0113
Women’s Weekend: October 23-26; Lay Leader: Sandy Deters. Call or Text her at 217-259-2417
The weekends are held at Camp Walter Scott south of Effingham (Must sign up prior to attending.) Call or text for an application.

Dear brothers and sisters, in his most recent general audience, from August 20th, 2025, Pope Leo XIV spoke beautifully of forgiveness. Pope Leo is referencing The Last Supper and the betrayal of Jesus by Judas when he states, “He knows that true forgiveness await repentance, but offers itself first, as a free gift, even before it is accepted.” There are times when it is not only incredibly difficult, but we may question if it’s even possible to forgive the other person, even if they have repented, even if they have asked forgiveness from us. We may say to ourselves, others, and even Jesus: “that’s all well and good that You offered forgiveness to Judas, Jesus, but You’re God. There’s no way that I could do that for this person, and I’m not sure I want to. I don’t know that I even have that capacity.” We may even think to ourselves, “That’s a bridge too far, Jesus. I can believe a lot of things about the faith and what You have said and taught, but this teaching is too hard for me to accept.” We must be mindful though (including and especially myself), of what God told the Israelites in Leviticus 11:45, “Since I, the LORD, am the one who brought you up from the land of Egypt that I might be your God, you shall be holy, because I am holy” and of what Jesus told the crowds in Matthew 5:48, “So be perfect, just as your heavenly Father is perfect.” And again, any of us could say, “well, there’s no way that I can do that. I can do my best, but being holy, being perfect, like the Father...ain’t no way.” And, in one sense, that’s the truth, if we were to attempt that on our own, if we think that we can muscle our way to holiness, to perfection through our own willpower, through our own merit, it is impossible. But, while we can’t, we also know that we don’t have to; God wants to help us, God wants us to rely on and lean on Him. After our creation, He didn’t wipe his hands and say, “well, that’s done, you’re on your own now, see you never. I’ll enjoy the entertainment.” He gave the Israelites the Commandments, to guide them on the right path, He encouraged prayer. He sent His Only Begotten Son, Jesus Christ, to die for us, that we may be saved and redeemed. Jesus established the Church, gave us the Sacraments, and after He ascended into Heaven, the Holy Spirit was sent. We have the help we need.

And then we refer back to the objection of this teaching of forgiveness is too hard. We refer back to John 6:67-69, when Jesus asks the Twelve, “Do you also want to leave?” Simon Peter says, ““Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and are convinced that you are the Holy One of God.” Yes, Jesus’ teaching on forgiveness is difficult, but if I believe that He is Who He is, I need to do my best to accept His teaching, and when I need help accepting and implementing it, I need to ask for His help. Also, if I want to exist in a space that is merciful and forgiving, where others extend forgiveness to me, even if I don’t merit it, I need to do the same in turn, even when it’s easier and is more comfortable to be vindictive and hold grudges against people who I believe have wronged me.

Next week, unless something more pressing comes up, I’ll begin writing a series on everyone’s favorite topic and Sacrament: The Sacrament of Reconciliation! Hooray! Have a wonderful and blessed week! Fr. Adam

<https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiv/en/audiences/2025/documents/20250820-udienza-generale.html>

Fr. Adam and Jesse Davis are offering OCIA this year. What is the OCIA? The Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA) is designed for non-Catholics who wish to learn more about the Catholic Church.

The OCIA process explores the meaning of faith and how Catholics express that faith in the community and in the world. It offers a chance to ask questions, raise doubts, acquire information, share, learn and grow. What’s the commitment? First of all, you’re not making a commitment to join the Catholic Church. You won’t be pressured into making any decisions; you can stop attending the meetings at any time. You will continue to be welcome at the meetings and in the parish no matter what your decision.

You might want to share this information about the OCIA with anyone to whom you wish to offer an invitation. Perhaps to give them support and encouragement, you might offer to accompany them to one of the meetings.

If you have any questions or an interest, please email Fr. Adam at aprichard@dio.org or Jesse at Jrdavis6698@gmail.com or call the parish office and leave a message.”

St. Mary's Youth Group Presents:

KICKOFF COOKOUT

Sunday, September 7

5-7pm - on the church lawn

School is back in session & so are we!

All 7th-12th grade students & families are invited to a fun evening of food & fellowship as we gear up for the year ahead! Hamburgers, hot dogs, & drinks will be provided; feel free to bring a snack/side to share.

Some fun games are also in store, so be sure to wear shoes you can run in & clothes that can get a little messy! (Parents welcome to participate, too!) And don't forget a lawn chair. Can't wait to see you there!

Don't miss out -

RSVP Now!

 Katrina Davis:
217-240-4291



Diocese of Springfield in Illinois in partnership with
Just a Guy in the Pew presents



MEN'S LEADERSHIP SUMMIT



OCTOBER 18, 2025

St. Boniface Catholic Church • 110 N. Buchanan St., Edwardsville, IL

SATURDAY

- 9 a.m.** Holy Mass
- 9:30 a.m.** Coffee & Check In
- 10 a.m.** Session 1: **HEART & MIND OF A LEADER**
- 10:45 a.m.** Small Group Questions/Discussion
- 11:15 a.m.** Session 2: **WHAT MEN WANT/WHAT MEN NEED**
- 11:45 a.m.** Small Group Questions/Discussion
- 12:15 p.m.** Lunch provided by Edley's BBQ
- 1 p.m.** Session 3: **HOW TO BUILD OR ENHANCE
A SUCCESSFUL MEN'S GROUP**
- 1:45 p.m.** Small Group Questions/Discussion
- 2:15 p.m.** Session 4: **NEXT STEPS/PRACTICAL DISCUSSION**
- 2:45 p.m.** Q&A with John Edwards and Large Group Discussion

QUESTIONS? Contact Gracie Ortiz at gortiz@dio.org or 217 321-1124



**OUR SPEAKER:
JOHN EDWARDS**
Founder of *Pew Ministries* and host of
"Just a Guy in the Pew" podcast



Watch John's story at dio.org/events/mens-leadership-summit/

The cost is \$30 to register • Deadline is October 1, 2025

go.dio.org/mls

IF YOU WERE ASKED ABOUT...

THE CRUSADES,
THE INQUISITION,
"THE DARK AGES",
THE GALILEO AFFAIR,
WHAT WOULD YOU SAY?



EPIC

A JOURNEY THROUGH CHURCH HISTORY

Do you know your family history? The history of the Church is the story of our family. It is the epic story of our ancestors in the Faith – the heroic men and women who shaped civilization and spread the Gospel throughout the world. Knowing this story is crucial to our identity as Catholics. Just as we would uncover exciting and interesting stories of our ancestors through the study of our family genealogy, we can uncover our Catholic past through the study of Church history.

Many in our society misunderstand and even attack our Church for the supposed misdeeds of the past. Topics such as the Crusades, the "Inquisition", and Galileo are used in an attempt to discredit the Church and her role in the world. What is the truth concerning these events and persons? How can you answer the objections?

Join us for this exciting journey through Church history and you will:

- Learn about the major people, places, and events of the two-thousand years of Church history.
- Remember the 12 time periods of Church history using a unique color-coded system.
- Learn the true story of the Crusades .
- Discover the revolutionary character of the Protestant Reformation.
- Discover the massive persecution of Christians in the 20th century.
- See the workings of the Holy Spirit throughout Church history and much more!

Dates, Time, Location

St. Mary's Shumway
Wednesdays @ 6:30pm
starting Sept 10
(skip 1st Wed. of the month)
Church basement

For More Information

Call/Text Donna Davis
217-690-2640

About Steve Weidenkopf



Steve Weidenkopf has a gift for making Catholic Church history come alive for any audience. He currently serves as a lecturer in Church History for the Notre Dame Graduate School of Christendom College.

www.CatholicTimeline.com



**ALL WOMEN ... COME TO THE
SPRINGFIELD in IL DIOCESAN COUNCIL OF
CATHOLIC WOMEN (SDCCW)**

2025 Convention

Wed., Oct. 1

**8:00 AM – 9:00 AM: Registration &
Refreshments**

9:00 AM – 3:30 PM Convention

11:00 AM Mass

Bishop Thomas Paprocki, Main Celebrant

Hosted by the Alton Deanery Council of Catholic Women

St. Paul's Church and Trinity Hall

1411 Main St., Highland, IL



"LET YOURSELF BE LOVED"

St. Elizabeth of the Trinity

Canonized by Pope Francis, Oct. 16, 2016

July 18, 1880 - Nov. 9, 1906



Claire Dwyer desires that all women know how deeply they are loved by God. She is a wife and mom of six and grandmother of two, living and working remotely for the Avila Foundation as Content Editor of Spiritual Direction.com from her home in Arizona. She is a speaker, retreat leader, and author of *This Present Paradise: A Spiritual Journey with St. Elizabeth of the Trinity*.



SDCCW email: sdccwinil@gmail.com

FB Page: Springfield Diocesan Council of Catholic Women

Please receive the registration form from your church --- due Sept. 14.

President of the SDCCW: Janet Zimmerman: 217-494-4743

Forms on bulletin board

Dear Padre,

My wife mentioned that neither the Book of Mormon nor the Catholic Bible mentions purgatory. Please comment.

A not-uncommon frustration is when a person searches the Bible for a particular word or phrasing. Frankly, it is expecting too much from the religious text to be able to faithfully record a particular word or phrase that originated hundreds of years after the ancient text was composed. Purgatory is one such example of this frustration. The concept of purgatory is referenced in the biblical text, particularly in 2 Corinthians 5:10 and 7:1, Hebrews 9:27 and 12:14, and 2 Maccabees 12:46, but the word is never used.

This should come as no real surprise because it was not until the writings of St. Thomas Aquinas (1225–1274) that the concept was expanded and formed into a theological statement of belief that has become central to Roman Catholicism. And what is that belief? The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* is clear: “All who die in God’s grace and friendship, but still imperfectly purified, are indeed assured of their eternal salvation; but after death they undergo purification, so as to achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of heaven. The Church gives the name purgatory to this final purification of the elect, which is entirely different from the punishment of the damned” (CCC, 1030, 1031a). The Book of Mormon never references purgatory, but it does speak about the afterlife and the experience of “waiting” in the spirit world for the completion of earthly time. ●

Fr. Thomas M. Santa, CSsR / DearPadre.org



SOULS IN PURGATORY BY LORENZO PIRELLI / ARSUNA SEGNACOLA / SHUTTERSTOCK



LOSSERVATORE ROMANO / CNA

A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

The narrow door is an image that could scare us, as if salvation is destined for only a select few, or for perfect people. But...a little further ahead, [Jesus] confirms, “Men will come from east and west, and from north and south, and sit at table in the kingdom of God.”

Therefore, this door is narrow, but is open to everyone!

ANGELUS, ROME, AUGUST 21, 2022

Monday

August 25

Weekday

1 Thes 1:1–5, 8b–10

Mt 23:13–22

Tuesday

August 26

Weekday

1 Thes 2:1–8

Mt 23:23–26

Wednesday

August 27

St. Monica

1 Thes 2:9–13

Mt 23:27–32

Thursday

August 28

St. Augustine, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

1 Thes 3:7–13

Mt 24:42–51

Friday

August 29

The Passion of St. John the Baptist

1 Thes 4:1–8

Mk 6:17–29

Saturday

August 30

Weekday

1 Thes 4:9–11

Mt 25:14–30

Sunday

August 31

Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sir 3:17–18, 20, 28–29

Heb 12:18–19, 22–24a

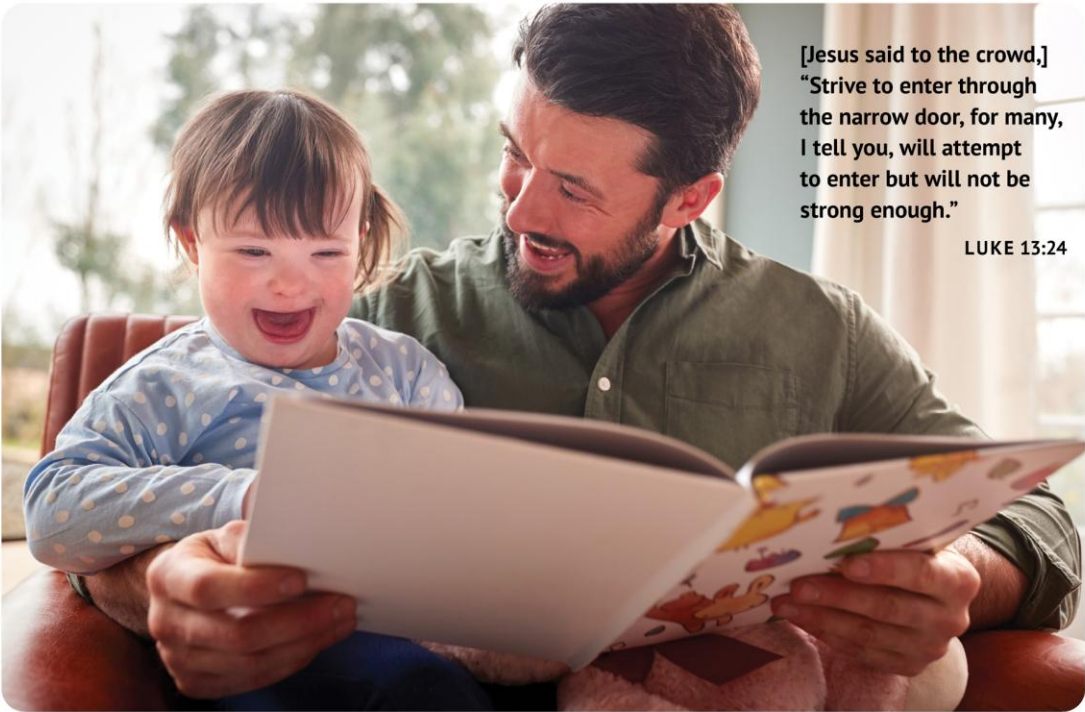
Lk 14:1, 7–14

Our Parish COMMUNITY

August 24, 2025

Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)

Isaiah 66:18–21 / Hebrews 12:5–7, 11–13 / Luke 13:22–30



[Jesus said to the crowd,] “Strive to enter through the narrow door, for many, I tell you, will attempt to enter but will not be strong enough.”

LUKE 13:24

The Narrow Gate

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

Some people find love in their lives; others complain of loneliness. Some find peace, while others seem to be perpetually angry. Some live comfortably amid human diversity, yet others insist that the rest of the world be like them. There are those who are able to forgive and compromise and offer compassion and those who cannot. The difference seems to be the ability to forgo one’s own desires for the sake of a greater good or the common good. Such may be the narrow gate through which some may not be strong enough to enter.

Phrases like *the kingdom of God* or *the kingdom of heaven* are not just references to places to which we go

but also ways of being or states of existence. They all refer to God’s presence, to life with God. You’ve heard people say they were so happy that they felt it was like heaven on earth. It wasn’t a place they went but an experience of being filled with joy and peace. It’s pure gift. No one ever finds it by focusing on oneself. It is the narrow gate by which we find our way into such a life. It is the doorway of caring for others. ●

Reflect

What is the “narrow gate” before me now—the most difficult challenge as a follower of Jesus?